Foreword **Gadi Oron**,
Director General

GROWTH THAT SHOWS THE ENDURING STRENGTH OF COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT

Welcome to CISAC's annual Global Collections Report.

This year's publication shows a remarkable return to growth as our whole sector fully recovers from the disastrous three-year pandemic.

Collections in 2022 were up a record +26.7%. Digital income for the first time became creators' largest income source – a real milestone for our sector. Live and public performance income were almost back to pre-COVID levels. Total collections are now, for the first time, back above pre-pandemic levels by a large margin of 19%.

It can be said without any complacency that these numbers are a reflection of the business skills and resilience of our member societies. They also show the enduring strength of the collective management system, steadily and reliably growing the royalties that sustain creators and the creative economy.

The traditional collective management model is – and has always been – one which puts the creator at the epicentre of its work. Its unique features – power in collective unity; non-profit operations; full transparency; and creator control – are as relevant and as important today as they have ever been.

While all indications show that 2023 will show further growth, there are enormous challenges ahead. The optimism over the return of the live sector, especially the big international tours, is tempered by signs that local events and smaller venues are struggling due to the continuing cost of living crisis.

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Digital income is still under-delivering for the vast majority of creators. Despite the doubling of streaming income in five years, the millions of creators represented by CISAC member societies are still missing out on royalty payments. CISAC societies' collections depend critically on good metadata in the streaming market and our Confederation is at the heart of industry efforts to bring necessary improvements in this area.

We are continuing to extend the use of the ISWC music works identifier throughout the value chain, and supporting members' initiatives to bring together the ISWC and its counterpart recording identifier ISRC, before the release of the song. Success in these endeavours will be a big growth driver for future collections.

Looking beyond this year, one existential issue overshadows all others: Artificial Intelligence. AI may not affect collections numbers today, but there is no question that the way we address it now will have a huge bearing on collections in the future. Dealing with the threats to the remuneration of human creativity, posed by AI, as well as the amazing opportunities AI tools present, is a top priority for CISAC. We are committed to playing a leading role in the creative industries' efforts to ensure that AI is used to enhance human creativity, not diminish or replace it.

This Report shows a positive picture in collections trends and of the state of the collective management as it adapts to a deeply challenging and rapidly-changing landscape. I hope you will enjoy reading it. ◆